

### SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment cancels Claims 5, 7-8 and 10-12. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-4 and 9 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 9 are independent.

### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 5, 7-8, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,557,115 ("Shakuda"). In addition, Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shakuda in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0004189 ("Seki"). Claims 5, 7-8 and 10-12 are canceled, so the rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-4 and 9 are allowed. Final Rejection at page 4, line 2.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

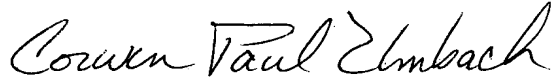
Respectfully submitted,

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